



Dear Parents,

I hope you managed to get some rest last week and enjoyed the break from home learning.

We are delighted to welcome all our children back to St Catherine's on Monday 8th March 2021.

More details will be provided next week but we hope to resume the same routine we carried out in the Autumn Term with the designated gates and the two start and finish times for the year groups.

Please look out for any calls you may receive which display a with held number. The teachers have been calling the children the week before half term and this week to ask them how they are and talk to them about their learning. We completely appreciate that many parents may be unable to answer calls due to work or even miss the call but it would be lovely if every child had the opportunity to speak to their teacher one to one before the 8th March. The teachers will do their very best to call back if they missed you!

Next week the teachers will be preparing lessons for our reopening so the remote learning for the 1st to 5th March will be the following.

- One live lesson each day (Year 6 will have one recorded teaching video)
- One White Rose teaching video
- Two 2 Dos
- The Teachers will also provide practical activities for the children to complete in the afternoon
- Work uploaded onto Tapestry and / or PurpleMash will be acknowledged with a reward or an emoji.

So that your child has a smooth transition back to school we suggest that their routine next week is similar to their school routine so they do not spend their first school week back feeling tired and hungry which will distract them from their learning and make them unusually emotional.

Suggestions for the children

- Get out of bed at the time they usually would for the school day
- Have a good breakfast
- Get dressed
- Minimum food between breakfast and lunch (other than the fruit they would have at school)
- Lunch
- No grazing until 3:30pm
- Go to bed at the time they would normally go on a school day.

They will really benefit from the above suggestions which will help their social cognition, emotional understanding and resilience. We want the children to have a really happy week back at school.

One of the tasks next week for all the children is to put on their school uniform and school shoes and have their picture taken. We would then love for the children to upload the picture on their

class blog. Whilst we believe this will be fun especially for the younger children it might be useful for all the children to do this just to check their uniform and shoes fit!

During the first week back the teachers will set fun activities for the children such as art and craft, puzzles, games and PSHE activities. They will be having their PE lessons and will play additional games in groups and in teams. We want the children to get used to learning with their class mates next to them, which may be distracting after all this time. We also want to create opportunities for them to talk to their teachers and to each other about their experience in this lockdown.

We are incredibly proud of what all the children have achieved. We are aware of the negatives of lockdown and remote learning but there have been positives to remote learning too.

Many children will have

- gained more independence
- become more self motivated
- developed effective learning relationships with their parents
- developed their IT understanding
- found it easier to communicate their learning to their teacher and access their support

some children will have benefited from

- the absence of negative peer pressure
- being able to revisit recorded lessons
- working at their own speed.

On 8th March it will be wonderful to see all the children back where they belong. As parents you have been through an extremely difficult time. At some point each and everyone of you has felt guilty that you haven't done enough and have been hard on yourself.

Children are like sponges they pick up and learn things all the time. They might not learn the one thing you are teaching them at that particular moment in time. But that's ok.

Look back on what you have achieved with your child. The teachers and TAs are certainly delighted with their achievements.

Be positive be proud. We look forward to taking over the mantle soon.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Take care and be safe!

*Maureen Kelly*